

Aquifers and streams in the, Stillwater-Rosebud watershed, Stillwater County, Montana

A proposal for the 2006 Renewable Resources Grant program
Sponsored by the Stillwater Conservation District



Water issues

The Stillwater River and Rosebud Creek watershed has experienced tremendous population growth (over 28% between 1990 and 2000). This growth is placing an increased reliance and demand on the ground-water and surface-water systems in the area. It is currently not known how much development the aquifers can support and it is not known what affect increased aquifer pumping will have on the area streams and springs. This information is critically needed to help guide and plan development to minimize impacts to the quality and quantity of the area's water resources.

Proposed project

The Stillwater Conservation District is submitting a grant proposal to collect information to help better plan and manage the development that is occurring to protect water resources. The proposed project will be a regional and integrated assessment of the area aquifers and streams conducted by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology. Data will be collected to evaluate the potential productivity of the aquifers, recharge rates, and the interconnection of streams and aquifers. The project will include detailed ground-water level and stream flow monitoring, isotopic tracer analyses, well construction and aquifer testing.

Project products

Public meetings will be held throughout the project to obtain public input and to present preliminary findings. At the completion of the project maps depicting aquifer distribution, probable drilling depths, and ground-water flow patterns will be available free off MBMG's website. Also on the website, will be a report will be published that describes how the data was collected and what it means.

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